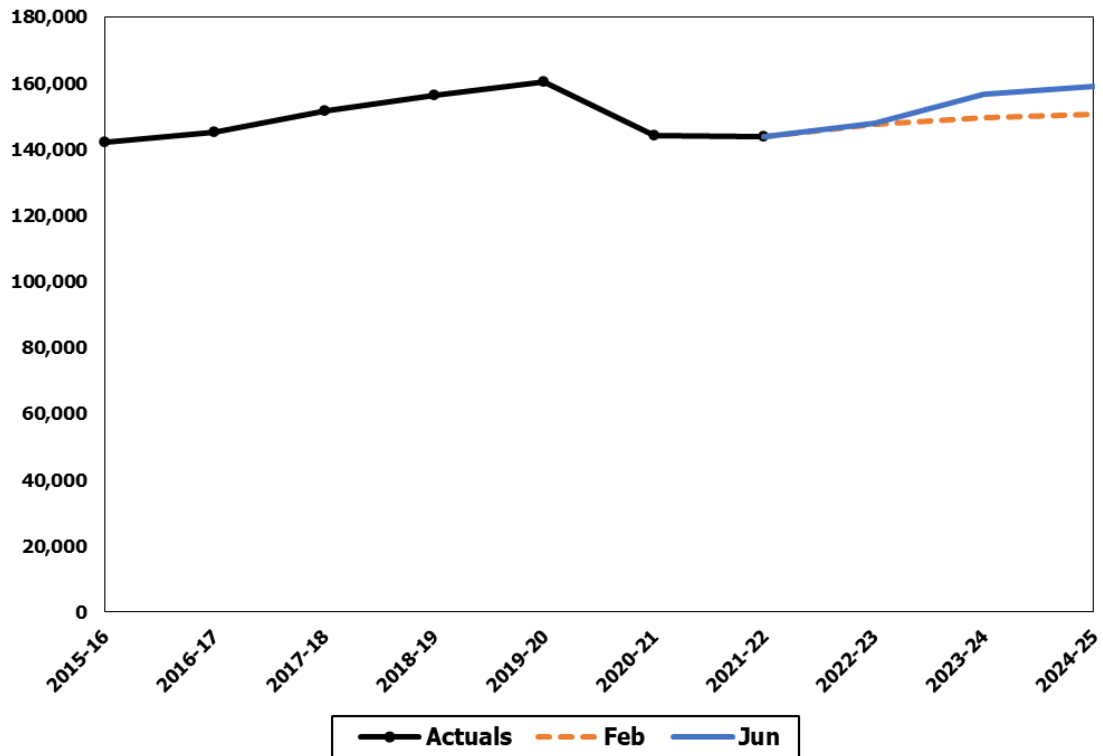


**Special Education Average Annual Enrollment (HC)
(Age 3-PreK and State-Funded Age K-21)**



The Common School Special Education forecast consists of two programs: a separately funded Age 3-Pre-Kindergarten program, and the Age K-21 school-based Special Education program, indexed to a percentage of each school district's total full-time equivalent enrollment. Up until the 2020-21 school year, Special Education also included the Age 0-2 Infant and Toddler program.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Feb-23 Forecast	Jun-23 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2023	147,465	147,852	387	0.3%
2024	149,620	156,771	7,151	4.8%
2025	150,689	159,113	8,424	5.6%

Compared to February, the June 2023 forecast is, on average, 387 students or 0.3 percent higher for academic year 2022-23 and 7,787 students or 5.2 percent higher for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Feb-23		Variance	Percent
	Forecast	Actual		Variance
Feb-23	155,585	156,303	718	0.5%
Mar-23	156,724	158,159	1,435	0.9%
Apr-23	158,604	161,229	2,625	1.7%
May-23	160,010	163,243	3,233	2.0%

The reported Special Education enrollment is 1.3 percent higher than the February forecast. Special Education 3-PreK enrollment is tracking 1.6 percent below forecast, while the tracking of K-21 is 1.2 percent above forecast. The tracking data is based on reported Special Education enrollment. These numbers are slightly different from the forecasted caseload which, for those in the K-21 program, includes only students funded under the Special Education basic funding target.

Academic Year Caseload Change

Academic Year		Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2015-16	141,992		
	2016-17	145,006	3,014	2.1%
	2017-18	151,515	6,509	4.5%
	2018-19	156,201	4,686	3.1%
	2019-20	160,361	4,160	2.7%
	2020-21	144,060	-16,301	-10.2%
	2021-22	143,866	-194	-0.1%
Forecast	2022-23	147,852	3,985	2.8%
	2023-24	156,771	8,919	6.0%
	2024-25	159,113	2,342	1.5%

The Special Education forecast declined by 10.2 percent in the 2020-21 school year. The state-funded Birth to Age 2 Special Education program shifted from OSPI to the Early Support for Infant and Toddlers program at the Department of Children, Youth and Families, reducing the 2020-21 forecast by 10,381. Also, Special Education enrollment declined due to concerns about COVID-19 and remote/hybrid school. In 2021-22, the Special Education enrollment declined slightly from the prior year, both in 3-PreK and K-age 21. The Special Education caseload is forecasted to grow 2.8 percent in the 2022-23 year. Enrollment is increasing in both PreK and K-21, with the significant year-over-year growth in 3-PreK as it recovers from low pandemic enrollment.

The legislature passed HB 1436 during the 2023 session, raising the funded index for Special Education K-21 from 13 percent to 15 percent. This will increase the caseload, year over year, by 6.0 percent in the 2023-24 year. The forecast assumes growth of 1.5 percent in the 2024-25 year.

Risks to the Forecast

The risks to the Special Education enrollment forecast are high. Special Education enrollment is subject to the same risks as the Common Schools forecast.

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